

Cloning and analysis of *Candida cylindracea* lipase sequences

(Yeast; gene structure; fungal extracellular lipase; homology; evolution)

Marina Lotti^a, Rita Grandori^a, Fabrizia Fusetti^a, Sonia Longhi^a, Stefania Brocca^a,
Anna Tramontano^b and Lilia Alberghina^a

^aDipartimento di Fisiologia e Biochimica Generali, Università degli Studi di Milano, 20133 Milano, Italy; and ^bIRBM P. Angeletti, Via Pontina Km 30.600, 0045 Pomezia, Roma, Italy. Tel. (39-6) 91093207

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SUMMARY

Lipases (Lip) hydrolyze triglycerides into fatty acids and glycerol. Lip produced by the yeast *Candida cylindracea* are encoded by multiple genomic sequences. We report the molecular cloning and characterization of three genes from this family. They encode putative mature 57-kDa proteins of 534 amino acids (aa). To date, five Lip-encoding genomic sequences from *C. cylindracea* have been characterized in our laboratory. The five deduced aa sequences share an overall homology of 80%. These sequences have been aligned with each other and with those of homologous enzymes, the Lip from the mould *Geotrichum candidum* and the acetylcholinesterase from *Torpedo californica*, whose three-dimensional structures have been solved by X-ray analysis. The *C. cylindracea* Lip appear to have a structural organization similar to that described for both enzymes.

INTRODUCTION

Lipases (Lip; triacylglycerol acyl hydrolases) are key enzymes in fat metabolism that catalyze the breakdown of triacylglycerols to free fatty acids and glycerol. They constitute an ubiquitous group of enzymes able to catalyze a number of different reactions, many of them of industrial interest (reviewed in Harwood, 1989). Lip hydrolyze ester bonds of water-insoluble substrates at the interface between the organic phase containing the emulsified substrate and the aqueous phase in which the

enzyme is soluble. Lip activity is largely increased at the lipid-water interface (Brockman, 1984).

The biochemical and molecular characterization of a number of Lip obtained from different sources has pointed to a marked heterogeneity of this class of enzymes with regard to specificity, aa sequence and catalytic properties (Antoniani, 1988). Based initially on the inhibition of enzymatic activity by chemical modification, Lip have been classified in the Ser hydrolases group (Chapus et al., 1976). The serine of the active site has been shown to be enclosed in a highly conserved Gly-Xaa-Ser-Xaa-Gly motif. This consensus domain represents the only feature shared by all determined lipase sequences (Antoniani, 1988).

Recently, a very significant contribution to the understanding of the Lip structure and function relationships arose from the elucidation of the three-dimensional structure of Lip from the human pancreas (Winkler et al., 1990), *Rhizomucor miehei* (Brady et al., 1990) and *Geotrichum candidum* (Gcl; Schrag et al., 1991). The three enzymes differ in their sequences (Boel et al., 1988;

Correspondence to: Dr. L. Alberghina, Dipartimento di Fisiologia e Biochimica Generali, Via Celoria 26, 20133 Milano, Italy. Tel. (39-2) 70644801; Fax (39-2) 2361070.

Abbreviations: aa, amino acid(s); AChE, acetylcholinesterase(s); bp, base pair(s); *C.*, *Candida*; Ccl, lipase from *C. cylindracea*; ChE, cholinesterase(s); *G.*, *Geotrichum*; Gcl, lipase from *G. candidum*; kb, kilobase(s) or 1000 bp; Lip, lipase(s); *LIP*, Lip-encoding gene(s); nt, nucleotide(s); oligo, oligodeoxyribonucleotide; ORF, open reading frame; pI, isoelectric point; *T.*, *Torpedo*; TACH, acetylcholinesterase from *T. californica*.

Shimada et al., 1989; 1990; Winkler et al., 1990) and in several structural features. Nevertheless, significant similarities have been observed in the topology of the mixed β -sheet conserved in the protein hydrophobic core and in the configuration of the Ser-His-Asp/Glu catalytic triad, functionally equivalent to that described for Ser proteases. The active site is buried in a deep hydrophobic cavity covered by amphipathic helical elements named by the authors 'lid' or 'flap'. Interfacial activation appears to imply a conformational change of the 'lid', making the active site accessible to the substrate. This suggested mechanism finds support in the x-ray studies performed on a complex of *Rhizomucor* lipase with a substrate analogue, where the flap appeared rotated by about 167° (Brzozowski et al., 1991).

The extracellular Lip produced by the asporogenic yeast *C. cylindracea* (Ccl) hydrolyzes triglycerides without specificity both in the attacked position of the glycerol molecule and in the nature of the fatty acid released. This enzyme has therefore a relaxed specificity in comparison with other Lip. This property makes it useful for industrial applications. In previous reports from our laboratory, it has been shown that multiple Lip-related sequences are present in the *C. cylindracea* genome (Alberghina et al., 1991), and the sequences of two of them (*LIP1* and *LIP2*) have been determined (Longhi et al., 1992). In this paper we report the cloning and sequencing of three other Lip genes and an analysis of the sequences of the *C. cylindracea* *LIP* multigene family, compared with each other and with those of related enzymes. On the basis of these results, we propose a model for the structural organization of the *C. cylindracea* Lip.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(a) Cloning of three genomic *LIP* sequences

C. cylindracea genomic DNA was digested to completion with restriction endonucleases and subjected to Southern blot analysis using fragments derived from *LIP1* (Longhi et al., 1992) as probes (fig. 1A). Duplicate blots were hybridized to probes specific for either the 5'-end or the 3'-end of the gene. Multiple hybridization signals were observed (Fig. 1B). In the pattern obtained with *SacI*-cleaved DNA, four bands were positive to both probes (not shown). The two *SacI* bands of about 4.2 and 5.1 kb (Fig. 1B) are likely to correspond to the two genomic clones previously isolated in our laboratory (Longhi et al., 1992). Moreover, the complexity of the hybridization pattern indicated the presence of other closely related homologous sequences. Therefore, total yeast DNA was cleaved with *SacI*, size selected for fragment lengths > 7 kb and used to construct another genomic library.

Screening of ca. 7000 recombinants led to the isolation of three positive clones carrying 10 kb *SacI*-*SacI* inserts. One of them was further characterized by a fine hybridization analysis using five probes representative of the whole *LIP1* sequence, as indicated in Fig. 1A. This clone was found to contain three sequences apparently oriented head to tail, hybridizing to all five probes and showing distinctive restriction patterns (Fig. 1C).

(b) Nucleotide sequence of *LIP* and deduced aa sequence

LIP-homologous sequences (*LIP3*, *LIP4* and *LIP5*) were separately subcloned into pGEM3Z (Promega, Madison, WI) and their complete nt sequences were determined on both strands (Fig. 2). The nt sequences obtained were translated into the corresponding aa sequences taking into account the unusual usage of the codon CTG—Ser instead of Leu—occurring in this *Candida* strain (Kawaguchi et al., 1989).

The *LIP3* sequence contains a unique ORF of 1647 nt terminating with a TAG stop codon (Fig. 2A). The deduced aa sequence corresponds to a protein of 549 aa with an N-terminal stretch of 15 hydrophobic aa, which might encode a signal peptide. The cleavage of the pre-protein by the signal peptidase is predicted to occur after the tripeptide ValAlaAla (von Heijne, 1986). *LIP3* would therefore produce a mature protein of 534 aa and M_r 57 291. Three potential *N*-glycosylation sites (Asn-Xaa-Ser/Thr; Hubbard and Ivatt, 1981) have been identified at aa positions 291, 314 and 351. Five Cys residues are present at aa positions 60, 97, 217, 268 and 277. The predicted pI (isoelectric point) of the Lip3 protein is 5.1.

The *LIP4* sequence spans an ORF of 1647 nt closed by a TAG codon, corresponding to a preprotein of 549 aa (Fig. 2B). Upon cleavage of the signal peptide this would result in a mature protein of 534 aa and M_r 57 051. The putative Lip4 contains a unique site for *N*-glycosylation (Asn³⁵¹), and six Cys at positions 60, 97, 217, 268, 277 and 328. Its calculated pI is 5.7.

The *LIP5* ORF is 1647 nt long and is terminated by a TAG stop codon, corresponding to a mature protein of 534 aa and M_r 56 957, preceded by a leader peptide of 15 aa. Lip5 contains two putative *N*-glycosylation sites (Asn³¹⁴ and Asn³⁵¹) and five Cys at position 60, 97, 217, 268 and 277. Its calculated pI is 5.5.

(c) Comparison of the deduced aa sequences

LIP3, *LIP4* and *LIP5* encode for putative proteins of 534 aa highly related in sequence to each other and to the Lip1 and Lip2 from the same organism (Longhi et al., 1992). All five *LIP* sequences will be considered in the following analyses. Residues conserved in all five sequences make up 66% if identity is considered and 84%

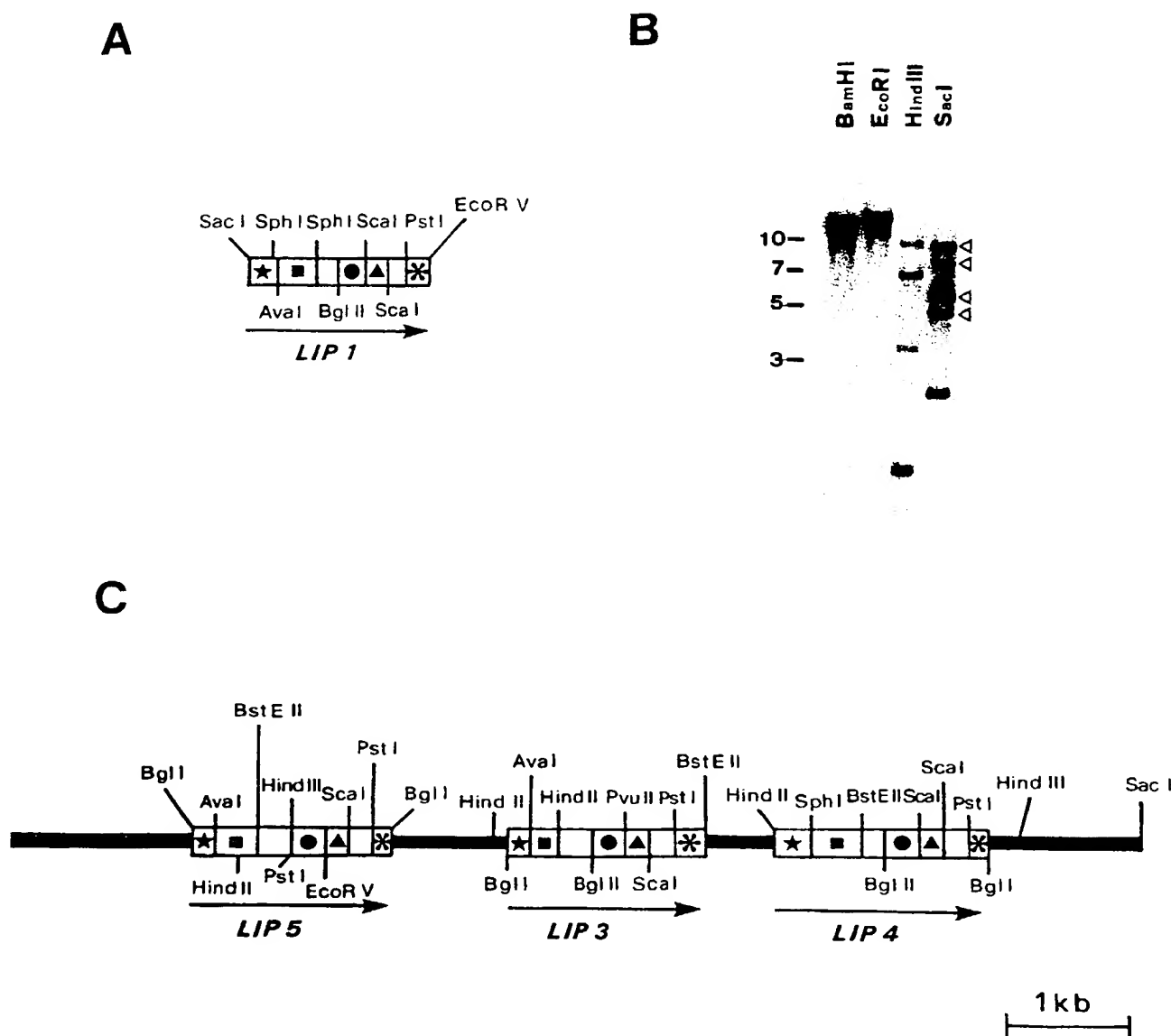


Fig. 1. *C. cylindracea* genome analysis and cloning of *LIP*. (A) Location of the probes (ca. 200 bp) in *LIP1*. DNA fragments were purified from agarose gels and labeled by random priming with [32 P]dCTP. Probes are marked by different symbols. (Panel B) Southern blots of genomic DNA digested with restriction endonucleases and hybridized to the *SacI*-*AvaI* probe specific for the 5'-end of *LIP*. A similar hybridization experiment was performed with the *PstI*-*EcoRV* probe specific for the 3'-end (not shown). *SacI* bands positive to both probes are indicated by open triangles. Hybridization was carried out at 45°C. (C) Location of *LIP* homologous sequences within the 10-kb *SacI*-*SacI* fragment as deduced by Southern analysis with the probes described in A. Hybridization conditions were as above. DNA regions positive to the same probe are indicated by the same symbol. Only restriction sites used for this analysis are reported. Coding sequences and their orientation are represented by arrows.

if aa are grouped on the basis of their physicochemical similarity as specified in the SIMPLIFY program of the GCG sequence analysis package (Devereux et al., 1984). The Lip consensus sequence Gly-Xaa-Ser-Xaa-Gly is conserved in all sequences (Fig. 2). A common feature of the putative Lip is the presence of hydrophobic signal peptides, whose cleavage would generate mature proteins with Ala as the first aa. These observations are in agreement with the results obtained by sequencing the N terminus of the mature protein (Kawaguchi et al., 1989).

The M_r predicted for the Lip are in agreement with those experimentally estimated by gel electrophoresis of purified Ccl commercial preparations (Veeraragavan and Gibbs, 1989). Potential sites of glycosylation, one of which (Asn³⁵¹) is conserved in all five proteins, have been identified. Biochemical analyses have shown that Ccl contains 4% sugars, mainly mannose and xylose (Tomizuka et al., 1966). Four Cys residues are conserved, which might participate in the formation of disulfide bridges.

Analysis of 5' regions showed the presence of TATAA

A

GTGACAAACAATGCGGCGCTGATCGCGGACTACCGCACACCGCTCCGAGTATAAGCAGAAGCATTCTCACCTGCTCGCTCCCC

ATG AAG CTC GCT CTT GCG CTC CTG CTC ATT GCC TCG GTG GCT GCC GCC CCC ACC GCC AAG CTC GCC AAC GGC GAC 75
Met Lys Leu Ala Leu Val Leu Ser Leu Ile Val Ser Val Ala Ala Ala Pro Thr Ala Thr Leu Ala Asn Gly Asp 10

ACC ATC ACC GGT CTC AAC GCC ATC ATC AAC GAG GCG TTC CTC GGT ATT CCC TTT GCT CAG CCG CCG GTG GGC AAC 150
Thr Ile Thr Gly Leu Asn Ala Ile Ile Asn Glu Ala Phe Leu Gly Ile Pro Phe Ala Gln Pro Pro Val Gly Asn 35

CTC CGC TTC AAG GAC CCT GTG CCG TAC TCT GGC TCG CTC AAC GGC CAG AAG TTT ACT CTG TAT GGC CCT CTG TGC 225
Leu Arg Phe Lys Asp Pro Val Pro Tyr Ser Gly Ser Leu Asn Gly Gln Lys Phe Thr Ser Tyr Gly Pro Ser Cys 60

ATG CAG CAG AAC CCC GAG GGC ACG TTT GAA GAG AAC CTT GGC AAG ACG GCA CTC GAC TTG GTG ATG CAG TCC AAG 300
Met Gln Gln Asn Pro Glu Gly Thr Phe Glu Glu Asn Leu Gly Lys Thr Ala Leu Asp Leu Val Met Gln Ser Lys 85

GTG TTC CAG GCG GTG CTT CCC CAG AGT GAG GAC TGC CTC ACC ATC AAC GTG GTG CCG CCG CCG GGC ACC AAG GCG 37
Val Phe Gln Ala Val Leu Pro Gln Ser Glu Asp Cys Leu Thr Ile Asn Val Val Arg Pro Pro Gly Thr Lys Ala 11

GGC GCC AAC CTC CCG GTC ATG CTC TGG ATC TTT GGC GGT GGG TTT GAG ATC GGC AGC CCC ACC ATC TTC CCT CCC 45
Gly Ala Asn Leu Pro Val Met Leu Trp Ile Phe Gly Gly Glu Ile Gly Ser Pro Thr Ile Phe Pro Pro 13

GCC CAG ATG GTC ACC AAG AGT GTG CTC ATG GGC AAG CCC ATC ATC CAC GTG GCC GTC AAC TAC CGT GTT GCC TCG 52
Ala Gln Met Val Thr Lys Ser Val Leu Met Gly Lys Pro Ile Ile His Val Ala Val Asn Tyr Arg Val Ala Ser 16

TGG GGG TTC TTG GCT GGT GAT GAC ATC AAG GCC GAG GGC AGC GGG AAC GCC GGC TTG AAG GAC CAG CGT TTG GGC 60
Trp Gly Phe Leu Ala Gly Asp Asp Ile Lys Ala Glu Gly Ser Gly Asn Ala Gly Leu Lys Asp Gln Arg Leu Gly 18

ATG CAG TGG GTG GCA GAC AAC ATT GCC GGG TTC GGC GGC GAC CCG AGC AAG GTG ACG ATC TTT GGC GAG CTG GCG 67
Met Gln Trp Val Ala Asp Asn Ile Ala Gly Phe Gly Gly Asp Pro Ser Lys Val Thr Ile Phe Gly Glu Ser Ala 21

GGC AGC ATG TCC GTG TTG TGC CAC CTC ATC TGG AAC GAC GGC GAC AAC ACG TAC AAG GGC AAG CCG TTG TTC CGC 75
Gly Ser Met Ser Val Leu Cys His Leu Ile Trp Asn Asp Gly Asp Asn Thr Tyr Lys Gly Lys Pro Leu Phe Arg 23

GCG GGC ATC ATG CAG CTG GGA GCC ATG GTG CCG CTG GAC CCG GTG GAC GGC ACG TAC GGC AAC GAG ATC TAC GAC 82
Ala Gly Ile Met Gln Ser Gly Ala Met Val Pro Ser Asp Pro Val Asp Gly Thr Tyr Gly Asn Glu Ile Tyr Asp 26

CTC TTT GTC TCG AGT GCT GGC TGT GGC AGC GCC AGC GAC AAG CTC GCG TGC TTG CCG AGT GCG CTG AGC GAC ACC 90
Leu Phe Val Ser Ser Ala Gly Cys Gly Ser Ala Ser Asp Lys Leu Ala Cys Leu Arg Ser Ala Ser Ser Asp Thr 28

TTG CTC GAT GCC ACC AAC AAC ACT CCT GGG TTC TTG GCG TAC TCC TCG TTG CCG TTG CTG TAC CTT CCC CCG CCC 97
Leu Leu Asp Ala Thr Asn Asn Thr Pro Gly Phe Leu Ala Tyr Ser Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Tyr Leu Pro Arg Pro 31

GAC GGC AAG AAC ATC ACC GAT GAC ATG TAC AAG TTG GTG CCG GAC GGC AAG TAT GCA AGC GTT CCC GTG ATC ATT 105
Asp Gly Lys Asn Ile Thr Asp Asp Met Tyr Lys Leu Val Asp Gly Lys Tyr Ala Ser Val Pro Val Ile Ile 335

GGC GAC CAG AAC GAC GAG GGC ACC ATC TTT GGT CTC CTG CTG TTG AAC GTG ACC ACG AAT GCT CAG GCC CGT GCT 112
Gly Asp Gln Asn Asp Glu Gly Thr Ile Phe Gly Leu Ser Ser Leu Asn Val Thr Thr Asn Ala Gln Ala Arg Ala 360

TAC TTC AAG CAG CTG TTC ATC CAC GCC AGC GAC GCG GAG ATC GAC ACC TTG ATG GCG GCG TAC CCC CAG GAC ATC 120
Tyr Phe Lys Gln Ser Phe Ile His Ala Ser Asp Ala Glu Ile Asp Thr Leu Met Ala Ala Tyr Pro Gln Asp Ile 385

ACC CAG GGT CTG CCG TTC GAC ACC GGC ATC TTC AAC GCA ATC ACC CCG CAG TTC AAG AGA ATC CTG GCG GTG CTC 127
Thr Arg Phe Lys Ser Pro Phe Asp Thr Gly Ile Phe Asn Ala Ile Thr Pro Gln Phe Lys Arg Ile Ser Ala Val Leu 410

GGC GAC CTT GCA TTC ATC CAC GCC CCG TAC TTC CTC AAC CAC TTC CAG GGC GGC ACC AAG TAC TCG TTC CTC 135
Gly Asp Leu Ala Phe Ile His Ala Arg Arg Tyr Phe Leu Asn His Phe Gln Gly Thr Lys Tyr Ser Phe Leu 435

CTG AAG CAG CTC CTG GGG TTG CCA ATC ATG GGC ACC TTC CAT GCC AAC GAC ATT GTG TGG CAG GAC TAC TTG TTG 142
Ser Lys Gln Leu Ser Gly Leu Pro Ile Met Gly Thr Phe His Ala Asn Asp Ile Val Trp Gln Asp Tyr Leu Leu 460

GGA AGC GGC AGC GTC ATC TAC AAC AAC GCG TTT ATC GCG TTC GCC ACC GAC TTG GAC CCC AAC ACC GCG GGC TTG 150
Gly Ser Gly Ser Val Ile Tyr Asn Asn Ala Phe Ile Ala Phe Ala Thr Asp Leu Asp Pro Asn Thr Ala Gly Leu 485

TTG GTG AAC TGG CCC AAG TAC ACC AGC AGC CTG CAG CTG GGC AAC AAC TTG ATG ATG ATC AAC GCC TTG GGC TTG 157
Leu Val Asn Trp Pro Lys Tyr Thr Ser Ser Ser Gln Ser Gly Asn Asn Leu Met Met Ile Asn Ala Leu Gly Leu 510

TAC ACC GGC AAG GAC AAC TTC CGC ACC GCT GGC TAC GAC GCG TTG ATG ACC AAC CCG CTG CTG TTC TTT GTG TAG 165
Tyr Thr Gly Lys Asp Asn Phe Arg Thr Ala Gly Tyr Asp Ala Leu Met Thr Asn Pro Ser Ser Phe Phe Val 534

TTGTGTATGTGCCAGTATGGATATGTGTGATTCGGCTCCCCAAACCCCTGTATCCATCCATCAGGCATCTTCAGCAACCGGTAACCTTGGCGTATGCCGA
CAACCACTGGACGTTGCTCTGG

B

GTAAACAACAATAGCTGATCGGCGGCGGGGCTATCGCGCGGCTAAATGTTCCGCTTATAACCGCGGACTCTCCACTCGCTCCAGCTCACTCCCC

ATG AAG CTC GCT CTT GTA CTC TCG CTC ATT GTC TCG GTG GCT GCC GCC CCC ACT GCC ACG CTC GCC AAC GGC GAC 75
Met Lys Leu Ala Leu Val Leu Ser Leu Ile Val Ser Val Ala Ala Ala Pro Thr Ala Thr Leu Ala Asn Gly Asp 10

ACC ATC ACC GGT CTC AAC GCC ATC ATC AAC GAG GCG TTC CTC GGT ATT CCC TTT GCT CAG CCG CCG GTG GGC AAC 150
Thr Ile Thr Gly Leu Asn Ala Ile Ile Asn Glu Ala Phe Leu Gly Ile Pro Phe Ala Gln Pro Pro Val Gly Asn 35

CTC CGC TTC AAG CCG CCT GTG CCG TAC TCG CCG TCT CTC AAT GGT CAG AAG TTT ACT CTG TAT GGC CCT CTG TGC 225
Leu Arg Phe Lys Pro Pro Val Pro Tyr Ser Ala Ser Leu Asn Gly Gln Lys Phe Thr Ser Tyr Gly Pro Ser Cys 60

ATG CAG ATG AAC CCA TTG GGC AAC TGG GAC TCC TCG CTT CCC AAG GCT GCC ATC AAC CTG TTG ATG CAG TCC AAG 300
Met Gln Met Asn Pro Leu Gly Asn Trp Asp Ser Ser Leu Pro Lys Ala Ala Ile Asn Ser Leu Met Gln Ser Lys 85

CTC TTC CAG GCG GTG CTT CCT AAC GGC GAG GAC TGT CTC ACC ATC AAC GTG GTG CCG CCG CTG GGC ACC AAG CCG 375
Leu Phe Gln Ala Val Leu Pro Asn Gly Glu Asp Cys Leu Thr Ile Asn Val Val Arg Pro Ser Gly Thr Lys Pro 110

CAAGACACAAGAAGEGTGGGGAGGTCACAATGCCGATCGCGGACCAGTTTACACCGCTCCGAGTATAAAAGCAGAAGCATTTCTCACCTTGCTCGCTCCCC																																																
<div style="text-align: center;">▼</div>																																																
ATG Met	AAG Lys	CTC Leu	GCT Ala	CTT Leu	GCG Ala	CTC Leu	CTG Ser	CTC Leu	ATT Ala	GCC Ala	TGC Ser	GTG Val	GCT Ala	GCT Ala	GCC Pro	CCC Thr	ACC Thr	GCC Ala	ACG Thr	CTC Leu	GCC Ala	AAC Asn	GCG Gly	GAC Asp	75																							
																										10																						
ACC Thr	ATC Ile	ACC Thr	GGT Gly	CTC Leu	AAC Asn	GCC Ala	ATC Ile	ATC Ile	AAC Asn	GAG Glu	GCG Ala	TTC Phe	CTC Leu	GGC Gly	ATT Ile	CCC Pro	TTT Phe	GCC Ala	GAG Glu	CCG Pro	CCG Pro	GTG Val	GGC Gly	ASN Asn	150																							
																										35																						
CTC Leu	CGC Arg	TTC Phe	AAG Lys	GAC Asp	CCT Pro	GTG Val	CCG Pro	TAC Tyr	CGT Arg	GGG Gly	TCT Ser	CTC Leu	AAC Asn	GGT Gly	CAA Gln	TCC Ser	TTC Phe	ACC Thr	GCG Ala	TAC Tyr	GGT Gly	CCG Pro	CTG Ser	TGC Cys	225																							
																										60																						
ATG Met	CAG Gln	CAG Gln	AAC Asn	CCC Pro	GAG Glu	GGC Gly	ACC Thr	TAC Glu	GAG Glu	AAC Asn	CTC Leu	CCC Pro	AAG Lys	GTG Val	GCG Val	CTT Leu	GAC Asp	TTG Leu	GTG Val	ATG Met	CAG Gln	TCC Asn	AAG Lys	300																								
																										85																						
GTG Val	TTC Phe	CAG Gln	GCT Ala	GTT Val	CTC Leu	CCC Pro	AAC Asn	AGC Ser	GAG Glu	GAC Asp	TGC Cys	CTC Leu	ACC Thr	ATC Ile	AAC Asn	GTG Val	GTG Val	CCG Arg	CCG Pro	GGC Pro	ACC Gly	ACC Thr	AAG Lys	375																								
																										110																						
GGC Gly	GCC Ala	AAC Asn	CTC Leu	CCG Pro	GTC Val	ATG Met	CTC Leu	TGG Trp	ATC Ile	TTT Phe	GGC Gly	GGT Gly	GGG Gly	TTT Phe	GAG Glu	ATC Ile	GGC Gly	AGC Ser	CCC Pro	ACC Thr	ATC Ile	TTT Phe	CCT Pro	450																								
																										135																						
GCT Ala	CAG Gln	ATG Met	GTC Val	TCC Asn	AAG Ser	AGT Val	GTC Leu	ATG Met	GGC Gly	AAG Lys	CCC Pro	ATC Ile	ATC Ile	CAC His	GTG Val	GCC Ala	GTC Ala	AAC Asn	TAC Tyr	CGC Arg	TTG Leu	GCG Ala	TCC Ser	525																								
																										160																						
TTT Phe	GGT Gly	TTC Phe	TTG Leu	GCC Ala	GGT Gly	CCG Pro	GAC Asp	ATC Ile	AAG Lys	GCC Ala	GAG Glu	GGC Gly	AGC Ser	TCC Ser	AAT Asn	GCC Ala	GGC Gly	CTC Leu	AAG Lys	GAC Asp	Gln Gln	ARG Arg	TTG Gly	GGC Gly	600																							
																										185																						
ATG Met	CAG Gln	TGG Trp	GTG Val	GCA Ala	GAC Asp	AAC Asn	ATT Ile	GCC Ala	GGG Gly	TTC Phe	GGC Gly	GGC Gly	GAC Asp	CCG Pro	AGC Ser	AAG Lys	GTG Val	ACC Thr	ATC Ile	TTT Phe	GGT Gly	GAG Gly	CTG Ser	GCG Ala	675																							
																										210																						
GGC Gly	* Ser	AGC Thr	ATG Met	TCC Val	GTG Leu	TTG Cys	TGC His	CTT Leu	CTC Leu	TGG Trp	AAT Asn	GGC Gly	GGC Gly	GAC Asn	AAC Thr	ACG Tyr	TAC Lys	AAG Lys	GGC Gly	AAG Pro	CCG Leu	TTG Phe	TTT Arg	CGC Arg	750																							
																										235																						
GGC Ala	GGC Gly	ATC Ile	ATG Met	CAG Gln	CTG Ser	GGA Gly	GCC Ala	ATG Met	GTG Val	CCG Pro	CTG Ser	GAG Asp	CCG Pro	GTG Val	GAC Gly	GGC Asp	ACC Thr	TAT Thr	GGA Gly	ACC Gln	CAA Gln	ATC Ile	TAT Thr	GAC Asp	825																							
																										260																						

ACG TTG GTG GCT CTG ACG GGC TGC AGC AGT GCC AGC AAC AAG CTT GCG TGC TTG CGT GGT CTT CTG ACT CAG GCA	900
Thr Leu Val Ala Ser Thr Gly Cys Ser Ser Ala Ser Asn Lys Leu Ala Cys Leu Arg Gly Leu Ser Thr Gln Ala	285
TTG CTC GAT GCC ACC AAC GAC ACC CCT GGG TTC TTG TCG TAC ACC TCG TTG CGG TTG CTG TAC CTT CCC CGG CCC	975
Leu Leu Asp Ala Thr Asn Asp Thr Pro Gly Phe Leu Ser Tyr Thr Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Tyr Leu Pro Arg Pro	310
GAC GGC GCC <u>AAC ATC ACC</u> GAT GAC ATG TAC AAG TTG GTA CGC GAC GGC AAG TAT GCA AGC GTT CCC GTG ATC ATT	1050
Asp Gly Ala <u>Asn Ile Thr</u> Asp Asp Met Tyr Lys Leu Val Arg Asp Gly Lys Tyr Ala Ser Val Pro Val Ile Ile	335
GGC GAC CAG AAC GAC GAG GGC TTC TTG TTT GGT CTC CTG CTG TTG <u>AAC ACC ACC</u> ACC GAG GCC GAC GCC GAG GCA	1125
Gly Asp Gln Asn Asp Glu Gly Phe Leu Phe Gly Leu Ser Ser Leu <u>Asn Thr Thr</u> Thr Glu Ala Asp Ala Glu Ala	360
TAC CTC AGA AAG CTG TTC ATC CAC GCC ACC GAC GCC GAT ATC ACC GCA TTG AAG GCG GCG TAC CCC AGC GAT GTC	1200
Tyr Leu Arg Lys Ser Phe Ile His Ala Thr Asp Ala Asp Ile Thr Ala Leu Lys Ala Ala Tyr Pro Ser Asp Val	385
ACC CAG GGT CTG CCG TTC GAC ACG GGC ATT CTC AAC GCC CTT ACA CCC CAG CTC AAG CGG ATC AAT GCT GTG CTT	1275
Thr Gln Gly Ser Pro Phe Asp Thr Gly Ile Leu Asn Ala Leu Thr Pro Gln Leu Lys Arg Ile Asn Ala Val Leu	410
GGC GAC CTC ACC TTT ACC CTC TCG CCG CGC TAC TTC CTC AAC CAC TAC ACC GGT GGT CCC AAG TAC TCG TTC CTC	1350
Gly Asp Leu Thr Phe Thr Leu Ser Arg Arg Tyr Phe Leu Asn His Tyr Thr Gly Gly Pro Lys Tyr Ser Phe Leu	435
CTG AAG CAG CTT CTG GGC TTG CCC ATT CTC GGC ACG TTC CAC GCG AAC GAC ATT GTG TGG CAG CAC TTT TTG TTG	1425
Ser Lys Gln Leu Ser Gly Leu Pro Ile Leu Gly Thr Phe His Ala Asn Asp Ile Val Trp Gln His Phe Leu Leu	460
GGC AGC GGC AGC GTC ATC TAC AAC AAC GCG TTC ATC GCG TTT GCC ACC GAC TTG GAC CCC AAC ACC GCG GGC TTG	1500
Gly Ser Gly Ser Val Ile Tyr Asn Asn Ala Phe Ile Ala Phe Thr Asp Leu Thr Asp Leu Thr Ala Gly Leu	485
CTG GTG CAG TGG CCC AAG TCC ACC AGC AGC CTG CAG GCG GGG GAC AAC TTG ATG CAG ATC AGT GCC TTG GGC TTG	1575
Ser Val Gln Trp Pro Lys Ser Thr Ser Ser Ser Gln Ala Gly Asp Asn Leu Met Gln Ile Ser Ala Leu Gly Leu	510
TAC ACC GGC AAG GAC AAC TTC CGC ACC GCC GGC TAC AAC GCT TTG TTT GCC GAC CCG CTG CAC TTT TTC GTG TAG	1650
Tyr Thr Gly Lys Asp Asn Phe Arg Thr Ala Gly Tyr Asn Ala Leu Phe Ala Asp Pro Ser His Phe Phe Val ***	534

Fig. 2. The nt sequences of *LIP3* (A), *LIP4* (B) and *LIP5* (C) and deduced aa sequences. The nt are numbered starting from the start codon as position A = +1. The aa are numbered taking the first aa of the mature proteins as position +1 (to the right of black arrowhead). TATAA and CAAT-like sequences are underlined. The black arrowhead indicates predicted signal peptidase cleavage sites. Lip consensus sequences are marked by asterisks, and potential N-glycosylation sites are boxed. CTG-Ser are in bold-face type. The nt sequences were determined by the dideoxy chain-termination method (Sanger et al., 1977). Sequences have been submitted to the EMBL Databank under accession Nos. X66006 (*LIP3*), X66007 (*LIP4*) and X66008 (*LIP5*).

and CAAT boxes enclosed in conserved sequence regions (Fig. 3). CAAT and TATAA boxes are implicated in the initiation of transcription in eukaryotes and have been found upstream from genes highly expressed in *Candida* species (Singer et al., 1989). Further evidence of Lip expression was inferred from the comparison with the restriction maps of Ccl cDNAs isolated by other authors (Kawaguchi and Honda, 1991).

The predicted pIs (4.5 for Lip1, 4.9 for Lip2, 5.1 for Lip3, 5.7 for Lip4 and 5.5 for Lip5) would support a

	-160	-150	-140	-130	-120
LIP2	AGGCTTGTTCGACGCTCACTGCTGCTTTCCTTTCGGCCAGCATGTGGCCG				
LIP3	...GGATAGTGGCTCTGCCCGCTTGGCAATCGCTGGGCCCGCCAT				
LIP4	...ACTTTCGGATGCCGTACTCTCTCAATGSCAGCCGCCCTTTCGCG				
LIP5				
	-110	-100	-90	-80	-70
LIP2	CACGCCCGCTCTTCAGTTGTCTGGTCTTACTGCTTGGAGCCAGGAGC				
LIP3	TGCCCGGACATCTCTCGGTCTGCTTACGGTTTCACAAGCAATCGGGCC				
LIP4	ATGTTGCACTGCTCAATCAAGTCGACACCACTAGCTGATCGCGGGCC				
LIP5	-AAGGCACCAAGGCTCTCAAGACACAAAGAGCGTGGGAGGTGACATGG				
	-60	-50	-40	-30	-20
LIP2	GTAATCAACCGCCGCTCTCTCGGGGTATATAAAGGCGAAGGCAC				
LIP3	TAATCGCGGACATCCGACAGCTCTCCGAGTATATAAAGGAGAGAAGCAT				
LIP4	GGCTATTCGCGCTTAAATGTTTCCGCTTATAAAGGCGGACTCTCCAC				
LIP5	CEATCGCGACAGTTTCAAGGCTCCGAGTATATAAAGGAGAGAAGCAT				
	-10	+1			
LIP2	TCTCACTGCTGCTCTCCCATG				
LIP3	TCTCACTGCTGCTCTCCCATG				
LIP4	TCTCACTGCTGCTCTCCCATG				
LIP5	TCTCACTGCTGCTCTCCCATG				

Fig. 3. Sequences upstream from *LIP2*, 3, 4, and 5. TATAA and CAAT boxes are underlined. The nt conserved in at least three sequences are boxed. Last digits of numerals are aligned with corresponding nt.

correlation among the putative proteins encoded by the genes isolated in our laboratory and the Lip isoforms detected in the enzyme purified preparations by different experimental approaches, such as two-dimensional gel electrophoresis (Veeraragavan et al., 1989) and affinity chromatography (E. Cernia, G. Ortaggi, M. Castagnola and R. Rubino, personal communication). Although glycosylation or other post-translational modifications could affect the pI predicted for the protein moiety to some extent, it is likely that the information provided by the sequence analysis could be useful for the separation and identification of *C. cylindracea* Lip isoforms.

In yeast, genes belonging to multigene families have been reported that are expressed under different growth conditions or produce enzymes differing in their substrate preference (Pretorius et al., 1991). Interestingly, a strain of *G. candidum* synthesizes Lip with a different substrate specificity (Sidebottom et al., 1991). The production of Lip isozymes could therefore be of physiological relevance in conferring to the yeast versatility in adaptation to different environments.

(d) Multiple alignment with homologous sequences

Screening of data bases by the FASTA program showed that the Lip from *C. cylindracea* are very weakly related to most other Lip, with the only exception being

the two Lip isoforms from *G. candidum* (40–44% identity over 544 aa aligned). Moreover, significant homology was observed to proteins belonging to the ChE family. The highest sequence similarities were found with AChE from *T. californica* (TACHe) and *T. marmorata* (27–31% identity over 446 aa aligned). The three-dimensional structures of both Gcl and TACHe have been recently solved by x-ray diffraction (Schrage et al., 1991; Sussman et al., 1991).

In order to gain some structural information concerning Ccl, sequence analysis of the Lip has been performed. This analysis can take advantage of two conditions: (i) multiple sequences belonging to the same gene family are available, (ii) structures of two different proteins, both homologous to Ccl, have been described. Fig. 4 shows the multiple alignments of the aa sequences encoded by *LIP* (Lip1–5), the sequences reported for two *G. candidum* isoforms (Shimada et al., 1989; 1990) and best scoring esterase sequences in the FASTA output. Sequences of the mature proteins have been considered.

(e) Secondary structure elements

Sequence homology, when available, is at present the most reliable tool for secondary structure prediction. The identity relating the Ccls to Gcls and TACHe is greatly above the threshold of significance (25% identity for more than 80 residues aligned) introduced by Sander and Schneider (Sander and Schneider, 1991). In this case, the reliability of the method employed for the alignment can be assessed, since two sequences of known structure have been enclosed. As shown in Fig. 4, corresponding domains in the secondary structures of Gcls and TACHe are indeed aligned. The good superimposition of the two reference sequences with those of Lip suggests that the Ccl might have a similar structural organization.

(f) The helical lid

Despite the high overall similarity, local sequence divergences are observed in Lip in comparison with the Gcl. In particular, the sequences of the first, second and eighth helices of Gcl cannot be satisfactorily aligned to the corresponding regions of the Lip sequences, even if gaps are introduced (Fig. 4). The lack of significant homology in these regions suggests that they might have a different structural organization in Lip. It should be noted, however, that several statistical methods for secondary structure prediction all consistently predict a helical conformation for the region 63–94 of the Lip sequences (data not shown). These helices have been described to build up the 'lid' covering the active site of the Gcl and proposed to undergo conformational changes during the process of interfacial activation of this enzyme (Schrage et al., 1991). It is intriguing that the high and

continuous sequence homology between the two fungal Lip is abruptly interrupted in these regions. It could be hypothesized that such local divergences form the basis of the different substrate specificity of the two enzymes. Corresponding aa stretches are not conserved in the AChE sequences. In these cases, the lack of a structure analogous to the lid has been demonstrated by crystallography. Based only on the alignment of Fig. 4 and in the absence of direct structural information, it is not possible to hypothesize whether other structural elements might provide the 'lid' function to Ccl. It is also possible that the regions corresponding to the 'lid' elements can protect the active site or that conformational changes different from those hypothesized for the other Lip have an analogous functional role for the mechanism of interfacial activation in *Candida* Lip.

(g) Structural organization

Key residues stabilizing the folding of Gcl and TACHe are conserved in Ccl (Fig. 4). Charged residues forming salt bridges in Gcl (Arg³⁸/Glu¹⁰³ and Glu¹⁸⁰/Arg²⁹⁰) and in TACHe (Arg⁴⁴/Glu⁹² and Glu¹⁶³/Arg²⁶⁷) are conserved at equivalent positions in the Ccl family. This would suggest a role for the corresponding pairs Arg³⁷/Glu⁹⁵ and Glu¹⁷²/Arg²⁷⁹ in the stabilization of the tertiary structure of the Ccl (Fig. 4). Cys residues forming two disulfide bridges in Gcl (Cys⁶¹/Cys¹⁰⁵ and Cys²⁷⁶/Cys²⁸⁸) and two out of the three disulfide bridges in TACHe (Cys⁶⁷/Cys¹⁰⁴ and Cys²⁵⁵/Cys²⁶⁵) are conserved also in the Lip family. The only exception concerns Cys²⁶⁸ of Ccl, Cys²⁵⁴ of TACHe and Cys²⁷⁶ of Gcl that are shifted by a few residues with respect to each other and to their partners in the disulfide bridge (Cys²⁷⁷, Cys²⁶⁵ and Cys²⁸⁸, respectively). It is therefore likely that the frame of disulfide bridges is maintained in the three enzymes, where in Ccl the four Cys we hypothesize to be connected are Cys⁶⁰/Cys⁹⁷ and Cys²⁶⁸/Cys²⁷⁷ (Fig. 4). The third disulfide bridge of AChE is not present in fungal Lip. The strong conservation of residues involved in protein structure stabilization is suggestive of a general similarity of the three-dimensional structures of the three enzymes.

(h) The catalytic triad

Crystallographic data on the Gcls and TACHe pointed out the presence of a trypsin-like catalytic triad in their active site. Residues composing the catalytic triad of Gcl (Ser²¹⁷, Glu³⁵⁴ and His⁴⁶³; Schrage et al. 1991) and of TACHe (Ser²⁰⁰, Glu³²⁷ and His⁴⁰⁰; Sussmann et al., 1991) are conserved in the Lip sequences (Fig. 4). Moreover, these residues are surrounded by highly conserved regions. Our results strongly support the hypothesis

[illegible][illegible]

	a										b										c																															
Gc11	O	M	A	S	G	V	S	K	E	L	C	L	Y	L	N	V	F	F	P	A	G	T	K	P	D	A	L	P	V	V	M	W	I	Y	G	G	A	F	F	Y	F	Y	G	S	S	A	S	A	Y	P	P	142
Gc12	O	M	A	S	G	V	S	K	E	L	C	L	Y	L	N	V	F	F	P	A	G	T	K	P	D	A	L	P	V	V	M	W	I	Y	G	G	A	F	F	Y	F	Y	G	S	S	A	S	A	Y	P	P	142
Lip1	O	M	A	S	G	V	S	K	E	L	C	L	Y	L	N	V	F	F	P	A	G	T	K	P	D	A	L	P	V	V	M	W	I	Y	G	G	A	F	F	Y	F	Y	G	S	S	A	S	A	Y	P	P	143
Lip2	O	M	A	S	G	V	S	K	E	L	C	L	Y	L	N	V	F	F	P	A	G	T	K	P	D	A	L	P	V	V	M	W	I	Y	G	G	A	F	F	Y	F	Y	G	S	S	A	S	A	Y	P	P	143
Lip3	O	M	A	S	G	V	S	K	E	L	C	L	Y	L	N	V	F	F	P	A	G	T	K	P	D	A	L	P	V	V	M	W	I	Y	G	G	A	F	F	Y	F	Y	G	S	S	A	S	A	Y	P	P	143
Lip4	O	M	A	S	G	V	S	K	E	L	C	L	Y	L	N	V	F	F	P	A	G	T	K	P	D	A	L	P	V	V	M	W	I	Y	G	G	A	F	F	Y	F	Y	G	S	S	A	S	A	Y	P	P	143
Lip5	O	M	A	S	G	V	S	K	E	L	C	L	Y	L	N	V	F	F	P	A	G	T	K	P	D	A	L	P	V	V	M	W	I	Y	G	G	A	F	F	Y	F	Y	G	S	S	A	S	A	Y	P	P	143
Ch15Human	E	M	N	M	N	P	N	R	E	L	C	L	Y	L	N	V	F	F	P	A	G	T	K	P	D	A	L	P	V	V	M	W	I	Y	G	G	A	F	F	Y	F	Y	G	S	S	A	S	A	Y	P	P	144
Ch15PspB1	E	M	N	M	N	P	N	R	E	L	C	L	Y	L	N	V	F	F	P	A	G	T	K	P	D	A	L	P	V	V	M	W	I	Y	G	G	A	F	F	Y	F	Y	G	S	S	A	S	A	Y	P	P	124
Ac15Tfoma	E	M	N	M	N	P	N	R	E	L	C	L	Y	L	N	V	F	F	P	A	G	T	K	P	D	A	L	P	V	V	M	W	I	Y	G	G	A	F	F	Y	F	Y	G	S	S	A	S	A	Y	P	P	125
Ac15Shouse	E	M	N	M	N	P	N	R	E	L	C	L	Y	L	N	V	F	F	P	A	G	T	K	P	D	A	L	P	V	V	M	W	I	Y	G	G	A	F	F	Y	F	Y	G	S	S	A	S	A	Y	P	P	125
Ac15Tforca	E	M	N	M	N	P	N	R	E	L	C	L	Y	L	N	V	F	F	P	A	G	T	K	P	D	A	L	P	V	V	M	W	I	Y	G	G	A	F	F	Y	F	Y	G	S	S	A	S	A	Y	P	P	127

	α										β										γ																																
Gc11	G	N	G	S	V	V	V	S	S	L	N	H	M	G	G	V	V	V	F	V	S	S	V	R	T	G	F	F	G	G	G	A	T	T	A	E	G	N	G	N	A	G	L	L	H	D	D	D	D	R	K		192
Gc12	G	N	G	S	V	V	V	S	S	L	N	H	M	G	G	V	V	V	F	V	S	S	V	R	T	G	F	F	G	G	G	A	T	T	A	E	G	N	G	N	A	G	L	L	H	D	D	D	D	R	K		192
L1	G	N	G	S	V	V	V	S	S	L	N	H	M	G	G	V	V	V	F	V	S	S	V	R	T	G	F	F	G	G	G	A	T	T	A	E	G	N	G	N	A	G	L	L	H	D	D	D	D	R	K		184
Lp3	P	A	F	A	G	M	V	T	A	S	G	V	L	M	G	V	V	V	F	V	S	S	V	R	T	G	F	F	G	G	G	A	T	T	A	E	G	N	G	N	A	G	L	L	H	D	D	D	D	R	K		184
Lp4	P	A	F	A	G	M	V	T	A	S	G	V	L	M	G	V	V	V	F	V	S	S	V	R	T	G	F	F	G	G	G	A	T	T	A	E	G	N	G	N	A	G	L	L	H	D	D	D	D	R	K		184
Lp5	P	A	F	A	G	M	V	T	A	S	G	V	L	M	G	V	V	V	F	V	S	S	V	R	T	G	F	F	G	G	G	A	T	T	A	E	G	N	G	N	A	G	L	L	H	D	D	D	D	R	K		184
Ch15Woman	G	N	G	S	V	V	V	S	S	L	N	H	M	G	G	V	V	V	F	V	S	S	V	R	T	G	F	F	G	G	G	A	T	T	A	E	G	N	G	N	A	G	L	L	H	D	D	D	D	R	K		173
Ch83Baby1	G	N	G	S	V	V	V	S	S	L	N	H	M	G	G	V	V	V	F	V	S	S	V	R	T	G	F	F	G	G	G	A	T	T	A	E	G	N	G	N	A	G	L	L	H	D	D	D	D	R	K		172
Ch83Terna	G	N	G	S	V	V	V	S	S	L	N	H	M	G	G	V	V	V	F	V	S	S	V	R	T	G	F	F	G	G	G	A	T	T	A	E	G	N	G	N	A	G	L	L	H	D	D	D	D	R	K		175
Ch85Mouse	G	N	G	S	V	V	V	S	S	L	N	H	M	G	G	V	V	V	F	V	S	S	V	R	T	G	F	F	G	G	G	A	T	T	A	E	G	N	G	N	A	G	L	L	H	D	D	D	D	R	K		175
Ch85Touca	G	N	G	S	V	V	V	S	S	L	N	H	M	G	G	V	V	V	F	V	S	S	V	R	T	G	F	F	G	G	G	A	T	T	A	E	G	N	G	N	A	G	L	L	H	D	D	D	D	R	K		175

	α										β										α																										
G11	G	L	E	V	S	D	H	A	F	G	G	P	J	V	M	F	G	S	E	S	A	G	A	M	S	V	A	H	O	L	V	L	G	C	D	N	T	Y	N	G	K	K	L	F	242		
G12	G	L	E	V	S	D	H	A	F	G	G	P	J	V	M	F	G	S	E	S	A	G	A	M	S	V	A	H	O	L	V	L	G	C	D	N	T	Y	N	G	K	K	L	F	242		
G13	G	L	E	V	S	D	H	A	F	G	G	P	J	V	M	F	G	S	E	S	A	G	A	M	S	V	A	H	O	L	V	L	G	C	D	N	T	Y	N	G	K	K	L	F	242		
Lip2	A	G	M	O	N	V	A	H	A	F	G	G	D	P	S	V	T	F	G	S	E	S	A	G	A	M	S	V	A	H	O	L	V	L	G	C	D	N	T	Y	N	G	K	K	L	F	242
Lip3	A	G	M	O	N	V	A	H	A	F	G	G	D	P	S	V	T	F	G	S	E	S	A	G	A	M	S	V	A	H	O	L	V	L	G	C	D	N	T	Y	N	G	K	K	L	F	242
Lip4	A	G	M	O	N	V	A	H	A	F	G	G	D	P	S	V	T	F	G	S	E	S	A	G	A	M	S	V	A	H	O	L	V	L	G	C	D	N	T	Y	N	G	K	K	L	F	242
Lip5	A	G	M	O	N	V	A	H	A	F	G	G	D	P	S	V	T	F	G	S	E	S	A	G	A	M	S	V	A	H	O	L	V	L	G	C	D	N	T	Y	N	G	K	K	L	F	242
ChiesHuma	A	L	O	N	V	A	H	A	F	G	G	D	P	S	V	T	F	G	S	E	S	A	G	A	M	S	V	A	H	O	L	V	L	G	C	D	N	T	Y	N	G	K	K	L	F	242	
ChiesRab1	A	L	O	N	V	A	H	A	F	G	G	D	P	S	V	T	F	G	S	E	S	A	G	A	M	S	V	A	H	O	L	V	L	G	C	D	N	T	Y	N	G	K	K	L	F	242	
AccessTora	A	L	O	N	V	A	H	A	F	G	G	D	P	S	V	T	F	G	S	E	S	A	G	A	M	S	V	A	H	O	L	V	L	G	C	D	N	T	Y	N	G	K	K	L	F	242	
AccessHoue	A	L	O	N	V	A	H	A	F	G	G	D	P	S	V	T	F	G	S	E	S	A	G	A	M	S	V	A	H	O	L	V	L	G	C	D	N	T	Y	N	G	K	K	L	F	242	
AccessTora	A	L	O	N	V	A	H	A	F	G	G	D	P	S	V	T	F	G	S	E	S	A	G	A	M	S	V	A	H	O	L	V	L	G	C	D	N	T	Y	N	G	K	K	L	F	242	

	β										α										ν										α										ν									
Gc11	M	S	A	T	L	O	G	G	F	L	F	Y	T	D	S	S	V	-	-	-	D	S	Y	P	F	A	O	A	G	G	C	S	A	S	A	H	D	T	L	L	C	C	288							
Gc12	M	S	A	T	L	O	G	G	F	L	F	Y	T	D	S	S	V	-	-	-	D	S	Y	P	F	A	O	A	G	G	C	S	A	S	A	H	D	T	L	L	C	C	288							
Gc13	M	S	A	T	L	O	G	G	F	L	F	Y	T	D	S	S	V	-	-	-	D	S	Y	P	F	A	O	A	G	G	C	S	A	S	A	H	D	T	L	L	C	C	288							
Gc14	M	S	A	T	L	O	G	G	F	L	F	Y	T	D	S	S	V	-	-	-	D	S	Y	P	F	A	O	A	G	G	C	S	A	S	A	H	D	T	L	L	C	C	288							
Gc15	M	S	A	T	L	O	G	G	F	L	F	Y	T	D	S	S	V	-	-	-	D	S	Y	P	F	A	O	A	G	G	C	S	A	S	A	H	D	T	L	L	C	C	288							
Gc16	M	S	A	T	L	O	G	G	F	L	F	Y	T	D	S	S	V	-	-	-	D	S	Y	P	F	A	O	A	G	G	C	S	A	S	A	H	D	T	L	L	C	C	288							
Gc17	M	S	A	T	L	O	G	G	F	L	F	Y	T	D	S	S	V	-	-	-	D	S	Y	P	F	A	O	A	G	G	C	S	A	S	A	H	D	T	L	L	C	C	288							
Gc18	M	S	A	T	L	O	G	G	F	L	F	Y	T	D	S	S	V	-	-	-	D	S	Y	P	F	A	O	A	G	G	C	S	A	S	A	H	D	T	L	L	C	C	288							
Gc19	M	S	A	T	L	O	G	G	F	L	F	Y	T	D	S	S	V	-	-	-	D	S	Y	P	F	A	O	A	G	G	C	S	A	S	A	H	D	T	L	L	C	C	288							
Gc20	M	S	A	T	L	O	G	G	F	L	F	Y	T	D	S	S	V	-	-	-	D	S	Y	P	F	A	O	A	G	G	C	S	A	S	A	H	D	T	L	L	C	C	288							
Gc21	M	S	A	T	L	O	G	G	F	L	F	Y	T	D	S	S	V	-	-	-	D	S	Y	P	F	A	O	A	G	G	C	S	A	S	A	H	D	T	L	L	C	C	288							
Gc22	M	S	A	T	L	O	G	G	F	L	F	Y	T	D	S	S	V	-	-	-	D	S	Y	P	F	A	O	A	G	G	C	S	A	S	A	H	D	T	L	L	C	C	288							
Gc23	M	S	A	T	L	O	G	G	F	L	F	Y	T	D	S	S	V	-	-	-	D	S	Y	P	F	A	O	A	G	G	C	S	A	S	A	H	D	T	L	L	C	C	288							
Gc24	M	S	A	T	L	O	G	G	F	L	F	Y	T	D	S	S	V	-	-	-	D	S	Y	P	F	A	O	A	G	G	C	S	A	S	A	H	D	T	L	L	C	C	288							
Gc25	M	S	A	T	L	O	G	G	F	L	F	Y	T	D	S	S	V	-	-	-	D	S	Y	P	F	A	O	A	G	G	C	S	A	S	A	H	D	T	L	L	C	C	288							
Gc26	M	S	A	T	L	O	G	G	F	L	F	Y	T	D	S	S	V	-	-	-	D	S	Y	P	F	A	O	A	G	G	C	S	A	S	A	H	D	T	L	L	C	C	288							
Gc27	M	S	A	T	L	O	G	G	F	L	F	Y	T	D	S	S	V	-	-	-	D	S	Y	P	F	A	O	A	G	G	C	S	A	S	A	H	D	T	L	L	C	C	288							
ChimpHuman	T	R	A	L	L	G	S	G	S	T	F	P	N	A	V	N	H	-	-	-	E	A	R	P	L	L	L	H	A	F	L	T	G	C	S	N	E	-	-	-	M	E	T	E	L	L	C	C	263	
ThesRabbit	T	R	A	L	L	G	S	G	S	T	F	P	N	A	V	N	H	-	-	-	E	A	R	P	L	L	L	H	A	F	L	T	G	C	S	N	E	-	-	-	M	E	T	E	L	L	C	C	262	
AcaciaRabbit	T	R	A	L	L	G	S	G	S	T	F	P	N	A	V	N	H	-	-	-	E	A	R	P	L	L	L	H	A	F	L	T	G	C	S	N	E	-	-	-	M	E	T	E	L	L	C	C	262	
AcaciaMouse	T	R	A	L	L	G	S	G	S	T	F	P	N	A	V	N	H	-	-	-	E	A	R	P	L	L	L	H	A	F	L	T	G	C	S	N	E	-	-	-	M	E	T	E	L	L	C	C	265	
AcaciaRabbit	T	R	A	L	L	G	S	G	S	T	F	P	N	A	V	N	H	-	-	-	E	A	R	P	L	L	L	H	A	F	L	T	G	C	S	N	E	-	-	-	M	E	T	E	L	L	C	C	272	
AcaciaTorca	T	R	A	L	L	G	S	G	S	T	F	P	N	A	V	N	H	-	-	-	E	A	R	P	L	L	L	H	A	F	L	T	G	C	S	N	E	-	-	-	M	E	T	E	L	L	C	C	272	

[illegible]

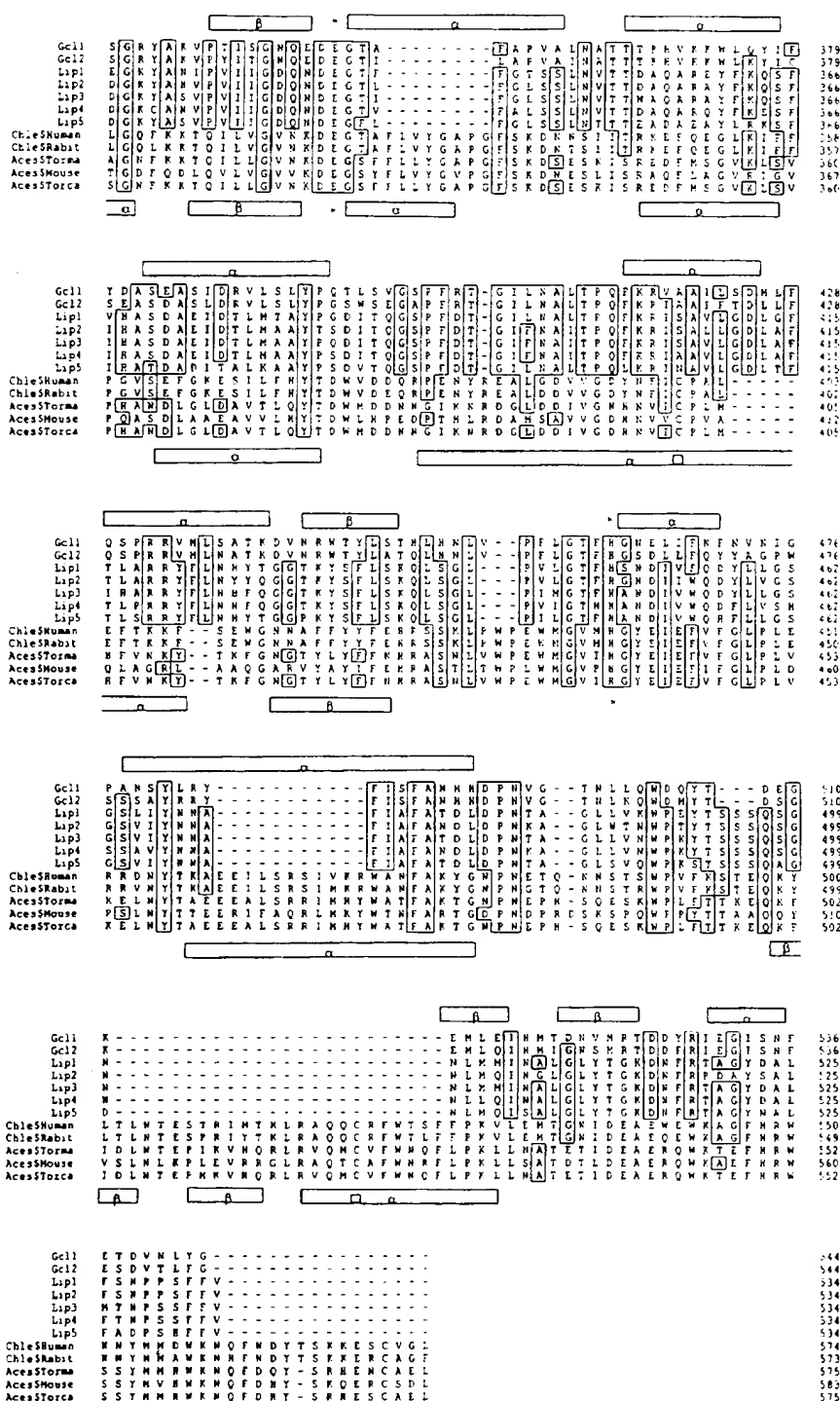


Fig 4. Multiple alignment (Devereux et al., 1984) of the putative Lip (Lip1-5), two Lip isoforms from *G. candidum* (Gcl1 and Gcl2), ChE from *Homo sapiens* (Chle\$Human) and *Rattus norvegicus* (Chle\$Rabit) and AChE from *T. marmorata* (Aces\$Torma), mouse (Aces\$Mouse) and *T. californica* (Aces\$Torca). The aa are numbered starting from the first aa of the mature proteins. Identical aa conserved among more than 50% of the sequences are boxed. Symbols on the top and the bottom of each sequence block refer to Gcl1 and Aces\$Torca, respectively. Active site residues are indicated by asterisks, secondary structure elements by open bars, residues involved in salt bridges by diamonds, where the same filling pattern identifies partner residues in the bridge. Paired Cys are indicated by upward-pointing carets, downward-pointing carets, and open squares (the last is present only in AChE).

(Schrag et al., 1991) that Ser²⁰⁹, Glu³⁴¹ and His⁴⁴⁹ are part of the active site of Ccl.

(i) Evolutionary analysis

The active Ser residue of the superfamily of serine hydrolases is embedded in the consensus motif GlyXaa₁SerXaa₂Gly, where in Lip Xaa₁ is usually either Tyr or His. The consensus sequence within the AChE family is reported to be PheGlyGluSerAlaGly (Bairoch, 1990). Interestingly, the catalytic Ser of the two fungal Lip is surrounded by a consensus sequence characteristic of AChE. This motif is highly conserved in the Lip sequences, the only exception being Lip2 in which a Tyr substitutes for Phe. This observation – if substantiated by the isolation of an active product of *LIP2* – would suggest either that in the first position of the consensus sequence any aromatic side chain might be allowed or it might correlate with differences in catalytic function or in substrate specificity. The carboxylic chain of the catalytic triad appears to be provided by glutamate instead of aspartate, as in other Ser hydrolases. AChE (Sussman et al., 1991), the Gcl (Schrag et al., 1991) and the Ccl are the only examples reported to date of Ser hydrolases using a Ser-His-Glu catalytic triad. Recently, Krejci and colleagues (1991) proposed grouping in the same protein family proteins containing a common ChE-like domain. This family comprises several Ser hydrolases, including esterases, AChE and Gcl. On the basis of the sequences determined for *LIP*, Ccl would also belong to this family.

These observations, taken together with the overall sequence homology among Gcls, Ccls and AChE, suggest a common ancestor gene for these enzymes. The two fungal Lip could therefore be considered as a bridge between the esterases and the Lip family (Fig. 5).

(j) The genetic code

A unique feature of the *C. cylindracea* strain ATCC14830 from which we have cloned *LIP* is the use of a non-universal genetic code. By comparing nt and aa sequences, it has been demonstrated that in this strain the codon CTG codes for Ser instead of Leu (Kawaguchi et al., 1989). Interestingly, CTG is used with a high frequency (3% of the codons) in *LIP*, including that corresponding to the catalytic Ser. Out of the 24 CTG-Ser, 13 are conserved in the Lip family. At non-conserved positions, CTG-Ser were found to be substituted by Ser (other codons), Leu, Ala, Pro, Trp, Asn or His. How such a phenomenon could originate and be maintained throughout evolution remains to be clarified.

(k) Conclusions

(1) In the yeast *C. cylindracea* are present several Lip genomic sequences (at least five but possibly even more).

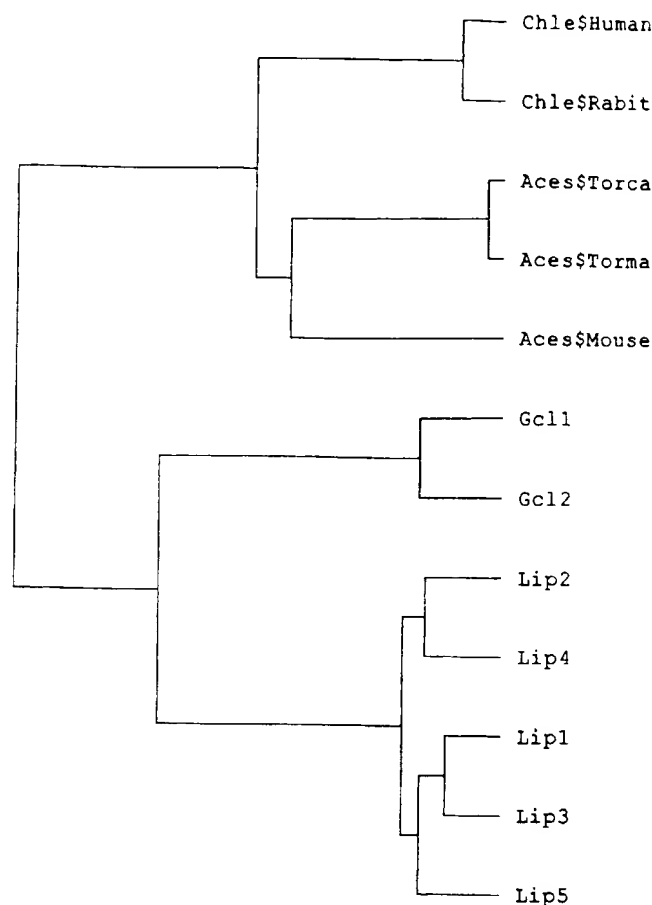


Fig. 5. Tree representation (Devereux et al., 1984) of the clustering relationships among the sequences aligned (and explained) in Fig. 4.

(2) The availability of multiple genes belonging to the same family provides an useful tool for the identification of structurally significant sequence features. The more interesting observation emerging from the comparison of the Lip sequences is the conservation of the consensus sequence Phe/Tyr-Gly-Glu-Ser-Ala-Gly surrounding the active Ser²⁰⁹, supporting a close relation of the *C. cylindracea* enzymes with the ChE family.

(3) By the use of sequence alignments we have inferred a tentative model of the structural organization of Ccl based mainly on the crystallographic data reported for the homologous Gcl. The overall structures of the two fungal Lip are likely to be very similar, except for the helical chains building up the 'lid' in Gcl.

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